

RON BARBER  
2ND DISTRICT, ARIZONA

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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0302**

WEBSITE:  
[www.barber.house.gov](http://www.barber.house.gov)

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1029 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
PHONE (202) 225-2542  
FAX (202) 225-0378

TUCSON OFFICE:  
3945 E. FORT LOWELL, SUITE 211  
TUCSON, AZ 85712  
PHONE (520) 881-3588  
FAX (520) 322-9490

SIERRA VISTA OFFICE:  
77 CALLE PORTAL, SUITE B-160  
SIERRA VISTA, AZ 85635  
PHONE (520) 459-3115  
FAX (520) 459-5419

FACEBOOK:  
[facebook.com/RepRonBarber](https://facebook.com/RepRonBarber)

TWITTER:  
[twitter.com/RepRonBarber](https://twitter.com/RepRonBarber)

The Honorable John Kerry  
Secretary of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Kerry:

With the news that the Ebola virus has now reached the United States, my constituents have expressed concern about the current screening procedures our government has put in place. As this virus has an incubation period between 2 and 21 days and since there are no vaccines or cures, it would make sense to increase our screenings and vigilance in West Africa where the outbreak is currently found.

In order to contain the virus and to better combat its spread, I respectfully request answers to the following questions:

1. What steps can the State Department and our embassies take to identify potentially sick people before they travel to the United States?
2. Has the Department considered implementing health screenings for Ebola at embassies and consulates when issuing new visas to those who wish to travel from West African countries?
3. Are questions about a visa applicant's contact with people in Ebola affected areas included in interviews performed by consular officers at embassies and consulates?
4. What is being done to make sure American embassy and consulate workers are being protected from the outbreak in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea?

It is imperative we do all we can to help those afflicted in Africa, and we must also do all we can to protect the American public. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Ron Barber  
Member of Congress